

CRANE FALLS LAKE PROGRESS REPORT

1 January – 29 September 1977

Interval IX (13 August-9 September 1977)

Angler participation was light during interval IX with very few trout taken. An estimated 257 anglers fished 904 hours to catch 62 rainbow trout (49 were released) and 526 largemouth bass (139 were released) (Table 1).

Table 1. Estimated effort and catch from Crane Falls Lake during census Interval IX (13 August-9 September 1977) by angler type.

Angler Type	Anglers	Hours	Rb (c)	Rb (rel)	Lmb	Lmb (rel)
Bank-bait	96	284.55	--	--	48	--
Bank-lures	31	74.28	--	--	26	--
Boat-lures	76	322.96	5	--	125	54
Boat-bait	9	26.56	--	--	--	--
Tube-fly	29	93.77	--	49	49	65
Tube-lures	16	101.99	8	--	139	20
Totals	257	904.11	13	49	387	139

Interval X (10-29 September 1977)

Interval X was shortened by 8 days when the fish population of Crane Falls Lake were eradicated on 30 September. During interval X only 134 anglers fished (397 hours) and caught only 13 rainbows and 16 largemouth bass (Table 2).

Table 2. Estimated effort and catch from Crane Falls Lake during census Interval X (10 September-29 September 1977) by angler type.

Angler Type	Anglers	Hours	Rb (c)	Rb (rel)	Lmb
Bank-Bait	55	103.09	--	--	--
Bank-fly	10	31.16	10	3	10
Boat-lure	24	86.49	--	--	--
Boat-bait	3	6.98	--	--	--
Tube-fly	42	169.16	--	--	6
Totals	134	396.88	10	--	16

Total Catch and Harvest (1 January-29 September 1977)

During 1977, a total of 4,917 anglers spent 17,776 hours on Crane Falls Lake to harvest 2,896 rainbow trout, 1,422 largemouth bass and 28 bullheads (Table 3). An additional 1,270 rainbow and 378 largemouth were caught and released.

Fish Eradication

All fish were eradicated from Crane Falls Lake on 30 September 1977. The eradication was the first step toward managing Crane Falls Lake as a trophy trout lake. Public response of anglers fishing the lake and of those attending two public meetings supported this management option.

All fish that were salvaged by the public on 30 September 1977 were enumerated, measured and weighed. Winds caused the majority of the dead fish to windrow on one shore on 1 October where 10 yard samples were counted and expanded to the entire shore. The remainder of the shoreline and deep water areas were examined in order to estimate total kill by species.

About 200 rainbow trout were killed (our actual estimate was 171). We found no rainbow under 348 mm (13.7 in) in length. Obviously, last year's fingerling release did not survive. Complete loss of that group of fish indicates a water quality problem rather than predation. The harvest of rainbow in late summer was limited because most of the rainbow in Crane Falls Lake had been removed prior to that time.

An estimated 1,250 largemouth bass (>203 mm, 8 in) were killed in the treatment. Bass under 203 mm were young-of-the-year and were represented by an additional 5,000+ fish. The estimated population of largemouth (exclusive of young-of-the-year) was estimated at 2,225 fish in our 21-23 June electrofishing survey. Adding the 1,250 fish estimated after the treatment to the 1,079 fish harvested after 23 June gives a total of 2,329 largemouth or about equal to our estimate.

Large bullhead did not surface until 1 October. We estimated about 200 adults, which were measured at 305 to 381 mm (12-15 in) and weighed 0.8 to 0.9 kg (1.8-2.0 lb). We also estimated 10,000+ young-of-the-year bullheads. No other age classes were observed. It appears that the adults were the result of an unauthorized release and that this was their first reproduction.

Crappie were found in Crane Falls in small numbers. We were able to collect 2 crappie that averaged about 216 mm (8.5 in) in length and weighed about 0.2 kg (0.5 lb). There were also a few young-of-the-year crappie that averaged 64 mm (2.5 in).

Three adult bluegills were also collected from Crane Falls. These fish averaged 246 mm (9.7 in) and 0.7 kg (1.5 lb). No young-of-the-year bluegill were located.

Table 3. Estimated effort and catch from Crane Falls Lake during 1977 (1 January-29 September 1977).

Interval	Anglers	Hours	Rb (f)	Rb (c)	Rb (rel)	Lmb	Lmb (rel)	Bull- head
I (1 Jan)	143	603.76	6	133	0	0	0	0
II (29 Jan)	372	1,556.66	74	407	420	0	0	0
III (26 Feb)	1,047	3,313.44	150	446	290	0	0	0
IV (26 Mar)	821	2,950.12	78	539	338	0	0	0
V (23 Apr)	559	2,296.53	49	160	131	25	9	0
VI (21 May)	909	3,358.82	62	650	39	318	154	0
VII (18 June)	386	1,422.39	7	24	0	379	56	28
VIII (16 July)	289	973.52	--	88	--	297	20	--
IX (13 Aug)	257	904.11	--	13	49	387	139	--
X (10 Sept)	134	396.88	--	10	3	16	--	--
Totals	4,917	17,776.23	426	2,470	1,270	1,422	378	28